4/19/82

The Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
in New Haven

Church of Christ in Yale (Battell Chap
First Church of Christ (Center)
First United Methodist
Immanuel Baptist
St. Mary's R.C. Church
St. Paul's Episcopal
St. Paul's U.A.M.E.
Trinity Episcopal
Trinity Lutheran
United Church

19 April 1982

CZ 001B

The Honorable Lawrence DeNardis
The United States Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman DeNardis:

Easter Greetings to you!

I am writing to appeal for your strong support for Human Rights. I have recently returned from ten days in Argentina and Uruguay. The occasion was the visitation of Protestant and Reformed Churches on behalf of the World Council of Churches. Our team was honored to meet with the courageous Madres de Plaza de Mayo (mothers of people who disappeared at the hands of the government), relatives of political prisoners, and former political prisoners. We were also fortunate to meet with significant figures of the Assemblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos (Permanent Assembly for Human Rights) and the Movimiento Ecumenico por los Derechos Humanos (Ecumenical Movement for Human Rights), in Argentina.

The repression of the governments of Argentina and Uruguay shocked me. It is difficult to understand how our great nation could possibly support, openly or tacitly, these regimes. It also became perfectly obvious that the lack of a strong Human Rights stand by the present Administration does not gain favor among the people. I was surprised at the number of people who told me that President Carter's stand on Human Rights made a qualitative difference.

Among the many Human Rights violations, the clearest are the disappearance of thousands of individuals and the torture of political prisoners. In the case of the disappeared, the "Madres" simply want to find out whether their children are alive or dead. In the case of the political prisoners, the torture is often subtle and psychological. For example, visitations by families are infrequently permitted, and when families do visit, they are limited to about half an hour, on opposite sides of a thick pane of glass. Children over the age of twelve are never permitted to visit. As a priest (Episcopal Church), I can tell you that the psychological, emotional, and spiritual toll is enormous.

I shall be doing all in my power to encourage the Church to speak out on these issues. I encourage you to do the same in the House. Given the current

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as __ () Extend as __ () Downgrade to __
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason ____

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Falkland-Malvinas Island conflict I doubt that many ears will be open to you. However, this might be an auspicious moment to raise this issue, if Argentina is to hope for our continued assistance in the form of mediation.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Shalom,

The Rev. John E. Kitagawa
Coordinator